

Editorial

Although we haven't sent out a newsletter in a while that doesn't mean we haven't been busy! There has been a lot of activity with regards to our LGS. We have designated a new LGS, de-designated an LGS for the first time in our history, carried on with visiting potential new LGS as part of our identification project and also responded to potential planning applications which affect some sites. We have also been undertaking a number of walks and talks around the region and are looking at resurrecting one of our historically regular walks in the near future given its recent popularity. To round our busy time off we were delighted to find out that our chairman and WYGT founder member was the recipient of a prestigious medal from one of the oldest geological societies in the World. Enjoy the newsletter!

Moore Medal awarded to Alison

We have some exciting news! The Yorkshire Geological Society awarded WYGT's chairman and one of its founding members, Alison Tymon, their prestigious Moore Medal. This medal is presented in recognition of services to geology in the north of England, something which Alison has worked tirelessly on for many decades. In the adjacent photo Alison is being presented with the medal by the president of the Yorkshire Geological Society at the time, John Knight. Huge congratulations all round to Alison!



LGS identification project

Currently we have 84 LGS throughout West Yorkshire (with one candidate LGS currently being assessed) and many of these we designated in the late 1990s to early 2000s. In the meantime technology has moved on and maps and aerial images are freely available to all, and coupled with Geographical Information Systems open a new world of possibilities. In order to leverage this we started a new site investigation back in 2014 covering the whole of West Yorkshire to identify any potential exposures which might have been missed. The investigation identified around 1500 new sites which has been refined to a shortlist of 317 which cover a range of rocks, many of which are not currently represented by an LGS. We're pretty excited by what we might find (and have made several excellent "discoveries" already, particularly those near Walsden in the Pennines! (see below)). We've already started the process of visiting the sites but it will take some time and if you would like to help please let us know at sites@wyorksgeologytrust.org.

Geocaching geology

We were recently made aware of an unusual and interesting use of some of WYGT's geology material on Todmorden Moor. An avid geocacher has set up a trail of 34 individual geocaches across the moor along a 10km walk route of the beautiful and rugged moorland. Using WYGT's information, along with information from the Todmorden Moor Restoration Trust and The Watershed Landscape Project, the walk provides a fascinating and unique way to access the geological interest of the landscape. More details can be found on www.geocaching.com (although the website locations can only be accessed by premium members of the website in order to afford them some protection).

Yorkshire Geology Day 2018

On the 21 April 2018 the annual Yorkshire Geology Day took place at the National Coal Mining Museum. As usual the day didn't disappoint. There were a good many local groups and societies in attendance with a wide range of exciting activities for all. The event was well attended by visitors and there seemed to be an increase in numbers over previous years. At the WYGT stand we had our usual selection of leaflets and a fossil lucky



dip but we also added a selection of rocks from West Yorkshire and around the UK to our table which piqued the interest of many visitors, particularly so the younger visitors. We also managed

another visit to the surface exposure of the Flockton Thick coal seam at the western end of the museum site. Although surface bank stabilisation netting and ground anchoring has been put in place since 2017, the coal, seat earth, fossiliferous mudstones and Tankersley Ironstone are still beautifully exposed. Coupled with some lovely spring sunshine the day was a success. Roll on 2019!



Enhancements to Burton Dean Quarry

Over the past few months WYGT has been working with the Burton Environmental Group on the production of an information board for Burton Dean Quarry. The quarry is important as it is the type locality of the Kirkburton Sandstone and is also designated as an LGS. Several members of WYGT visited the quarry on 25 February 2017 along with two members of the Burton Environmental Group to discuss the plans. Over the course of 2017 and 2018 vegetation clearance at the quarry was undertaken, greatly opening up the quarry and allowing the rocks to be more clearly seen. The notice boards were installed for all to see around the start of the year. Unfortunately there has been some issues with vandalism at the site however this is being tackled as we speak. However, if you can, please pay a visit to the quarry as both its geological and historical features are well worth your time. Thanks are due to the Burton Environmental Group for their efforts.



Twittering about rocks

As some of you may remember from a previous newsletter (No. 20, Winter 2016) we resurrected WYGT's long dormant Twitter page. Since then we have been adding news, geological snippets and events when we can and we are slowly gaining a diverse range of followers, from Greenhead College A-Level geology course to a Thai restaurant in Leeds(!) Hopefully you've subscribed to our Twitter account but if not our Twitter handle is @WYorksGeolTrust. You can also reach the account from the link at the bottom of WYGT's home page.

A new LGS and no longer an LGS

We have recently designated a new LGS and, sadly, de-designated another. In May this year we submitted a formal report to the Local Sites Partnership on Brown Bank Moss (near Silsden) for designation as an LGS. This site is actually a peat bog and has no exposures of rocks. However, it represents a near perfectly preserved repository of pollen deposited during the Late Devensian glaciation. This site therefore represents the vegetation and climatic history of the area around the peat bog from the last 11,000 years and as such is quite unique in West Yorkshire.

Due to safety concerns at one of our long-established LGS, Longwood Edge Quarry, we have had to take the necessary steps to de-designate the site and it is no longer classed as an LGS. However, all is not lost as the site had become very overgrown and unmanageable with complicated access requirements. Importantly, all of the features in the Rough Rock shown at the quarry are displayed in our other LGS which contain the Rough Rock, so we have not lost anything special or rare in the geological history of West Yorkshire.

Geology of Piece Hall

A few months ago we had a query from an interested member of the public who had visited the newly restored Piece Hall in Halifax and wanted to know what different rock types were used in the restoration. The



absolutely beautiful building plays host to a wide range of different rock types, however the dominant building stone which was used to construct most of the building is a Lower Coal Measures sandstone called the Elland Flags which is a fine to medium grained flaggy to thick bedded micaceous sandstone. This rock is found through much of the area around Halifax and Huddersfield. It is a common building stone used throughout that area and is still quarried for use today. The original stone came from Ringby Quarry which lies above Halifax, near Queensbury. The Elland Flags was used in the restoration of the building and the main flags and setts forming the floor, although we were unable to identify the exact quarry source, but it is very likely to be local to Halifax. There are also a mixture of non-local rocks, from granites (possibly from Cornwall or Spain) forming

steps to multicoloured blocks of igneous rocks and limestones forming infills in the main floor area. If you like geology and beautiful buildings it is well worth a visit. If you would like to see an exposure of the Elland Flags for yourself you can visit the LGS at Beacon Hill and Godley Cutting (photo to the left) (<http://www.wyorksgeologytrust.org/lgssheets/calderdale/Beacon%20Hill%20and%20Godley%20Cutting,%20Halifax.pdf>).

WYGT geology walks and talks – roundup

We have been quite active on the walks front recently, conducting several walks to Baildon Moor, one to Hell Hole Quarry in Heptonstall, as well as one of our regular walks around Halifax to look at the building stones. The Baildon Moor walk was one we regularly run for the general public many years ago and given the success of the recent walks we are looking to resurrect this walk next year. We also continue to give talks and have most recently given a talk to a local Women's Institute group at Northowram about the geology of Yorkshire. We have several others walks for local geology groups in the pipeline. Walk attendance has been good and its nice to know the wonders of geology still chime with people.



News snippets

WYGT's Alison Tymon is leading a guided walk around Halifax town centre to look at the rock and building stones on display there on Sunday 9th September between 1400-1530. See <http://www.wyorksgeologytrust.org/events.html> for more details.

Bill Fraser of the Leeds Geological Association is running another of his excellent geology of Roundhay Park walks on Sunday 15th September between 1330-1600. See <http://www.wyorksgeologytrust.org/events.html> for more details.

Although not West Yorkshire geology in particular you may be interested to learn of two new geology exhibitions currently underway in Yorkshire. At the Yorkshire Museum there is currently a superb exhibition running on the Jurassic called "Yorkshire's Jurassic World". Lots of fossils mixed with high tech CGI makes for an entertaining visit for both young and old (<https://www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk/exhibition/yorkshires-jurassic-world/>). Further east at the Rotunda Museum in Scarborough a new exhibition has just begun called "Ancient Seas of the Yorkshire Coast" (<https://www.scarboroughmuseumtrust.com/event/ancient-seas-of-the-yorkshire-coast/>).

And finally...

As part of our LGS identification project (see above) we recently visited Inchfield Moor, due east of Walsden in the Pennines, to see some rocks which are relatively rare and unique within West Yorkshire. These are the Rossendale Formation (bottom right and right), the Upper Haslingden Flags (right) and the Lower Haslingden Flags (bottom left). What is interesting about these Namurian rocks is they were formed in a birds foot delta with water and sediment flowing from the west, in stark contrast to most of the huge Namurian river dominated deltas being fed with water and sediment from the north. They are impressive rocks in an equally impressive location!

